



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N – Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 – (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building – 1111 Washington Street SE – Olympia, WA

MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (MDNS)

Name of Proposal: LOWER SWAUK CREEK HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Description of Proposal:

The proposed project is designed to restore in-stream and riparian habitat such that natural stream processes will continue to facilitate natural habitat creation and maintenance. Bioengineering approaches such as adding between 200 and 300 pieces of large woody material, which will be used to construct three engineered log jams, log jams, five grade control structures, and individual placement at five locations.

About 3000 cubic yards of material will be excavated from below the high water mark and stored on site. Roughly 3500 cubic yards of boulders and native excavated material will be placed back in the channel as ballast for engineered log jams, grade control structures, and other habitat structures. Native materials will be reused as much as possible and additional material will be obtained from nearby sources. The existing private bridge will be elevated so that it will pass debris and flood flows as well as allow channel migration. Bridge abutments will be well outside of the OHWM.

An aggressive revegetation plan using native species will provide additional mitigation, and immediate habitat benefits while encouraging long term habitat creation. A private, undersized bridge that constricts the channel will be raised in elevation to ensure good conveyance of flow, sediment, and woody material while maintaining access to the west side of the property. The restoration approach in this reach is to encourage natural habitat forming processes and improve riparian and floodplain function.

The proponent shall incorporate the following mitigation measures into the project:

- I. Erosion control will occur at material and equipment staging areas as well to minimize the risks of stormwater reaching Swauk Creek.
- II. Disturbance will be minimized as much as possible. During construction, best management practices will be applied to reduce the chances of stormwater runoff entering Swauk Creek and/or causing erosion. Work will occur during a typically dry time of year when storms are less likely and when stream flows are low. Erosion control fabric or suitable mulch will be applied to all disturbed areas and suitable native vegetation will be seeded/planted.

- III. Hydraulic lines will be filled with biodegradable fluids to minimize impacts if a line breaks during implementation.
- IV. Refueling will occur at least 150 feet away from the ordinary high water mark and machinery within the channel will have biodegradable fluids in hydraulic lines.
- V. An aggressive revegetation plan using native species will provide additional mitigation, and immediate habitat benefits while encouraging long term habitat creation. A private, undersized bridge that constricts the channel will be raised in elevation to ensure good conveyance of flow, sediment, and woody material while maintaining access to the west side of the property. The restoration approach in this reach is to encourage natural habitat forming processes and improve riparian and floodplain function.
- VI. Mitigation measures for this project include placement of between 200 and 300 pieces of large woody material, revegetation with native riparian species and construction of in- channel structures that result in improved stream/floodplain connectivity.

Proponent/Applicant:

Yakama Nation Fisheries

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Location of Proposal: Lowest 3 miles of Swauk Creek above Confluence with Yakima River Kittitas County; Sections 5, 8, 17, 20, Township 19 North, Range 17 East WM.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this mitigated determination of nonsignificance (MDNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this MDNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the MDNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or MDNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. This means we must receive your comments by **April 3, 2012**.

Method of Comment:

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Bob Zeigler

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this MDNS or the details of the proposal, contact Bob Zeigler at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call him at (360) 902-2578.

DATE OF ISSUE: March 19, 2012

SIGNATURE:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Zeigler".

Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 12 -017. dns